

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

(IN FORMAT COMPLIANT WITH THE REVISED 37 CFR 1.121)

Please add new claims 15-27.

1. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of preparing data for transmission, the method comprising:

transmitting a first signal requesting permission to transmit data;

5 generating a first packet from data of a first source prior to receiving a second signal granting the permission to transmit data;

B transmitting a third signal requesting a change of data source from the first source to a second source subsequent to said 10 generating of said first packet, wherein said transmitting the third signal occurs if the data of the first source is incomplete; and

generating a second data packet from data of the second source.

2. (CANCELED)

3. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transmitting the third signal occurs if a time stamp included in the data of the first source is later than ~~the~~ a time of receiving the second signal.

4. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:

discarding ~~the first portion of~~ the first data packet in response to said changing to said second data source.

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5. (ORIGINAL) The method of Claim 1, wherein said transmitting of the third signal occurs after said receiving of said second signal.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CANCELED)

9. (CANCELED)

10. (CANCELED)

11. (CANCELED)

12. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A method of preparing data for transmission, the method comprising:

transmitting a first signal requesting permission to transmit data;

5 generating a first packet from data of a first source prior to receiving a second signal granting the permission to transmit data;

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10 transmitting a third signal requesting a change of data source from the first source to a second source subsequent to said generating of said first packet, wherein said transmitting the third signal occurs if a time stamp included in the data of the first source is later than the a time of receiving the second signal; and

15 generating a second data packet from data of the second source.

13. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) An apparatus for preparing data for transmission, comprising:

means for transmitting a first signal requesting permission to transmit data;

5 means for generating a ~~first~~ portion of a first packet
from data of a first source prior to receiving a second signal
granting ~~the~~ permission to transmit data;

 means for transmitting a third signal requesting a change
of data source from the first source to a second source subsequent
10 to said generating of said first packet, wherein said transmitting
the third signal occurs if the data of the first source is
incomplete; and

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 means for generating a second data packet from data of
the second source.

14. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) The method of Claim 1,
wherein a link controller generates said second packet when the
second signal is active.

15. (NEW) The method of Claim 1, wherein said
transmitting of the third signal occurs if a time stamp included in
the data of the first source is later than a time of receiving the
second signal.

16. (NEW) The method of Claim 1, wherein said second
packet defines an empty packet without data.

17. (NEW) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
recovering a speed code from said data of said first
source for use in arbitrating for said second signal granting said
permission to transmit.

18. (NEW) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
transmitting said data of said first source in response
to said third signal remaining inactive during a specified period.

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19. (NEW) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:
discarding said first packet in response to said
transmitting of said third signal occurring within a specified
time.

20. (NEW) The method of Claim 1, wherein said first
packet comprises an isochronous packet conforming to an Institute
of Electrical and Electronics Engineering 1394 standard.

21. (NEW) The method of Claim 12, wherein said
transmitting of the third signal occurs if the data of the first
source is incomplete.

22. (NEW) The method of Claim 12, wherein said second packet defines an empty packet without data.

23. (NEW) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:
recovering a speed code from said data of said first source for use in arbitrating for said second signal granting said permission to transmit.

24. (NEW) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:
transmitting said data of said first source in response to said third signal remaining inactive during a specified period.
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25. (NEW) The method of Claim 12, further comprising:
discarding said first packet in response to said transmitting of said third signal occurring within a specified time.

26. (NEW) The method of Claim 12, wherein said first packet comprises an isochronous packet conforming to an Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineering 1394 standard.

27. (NEW) An apparatus for preparing data for transmission, comprising:

means for transmitting a first signal requesting permission to transmit data;

5 means for generating a first packet from data of a first source prior to receiving a second signal granting permission to transmit data;

B 4 means for transmitting a third signal requesting a change of data source from the first source to a second source subsequent 10 to said generating of said first packet, wherein said transmitting the third signal occurs if a time stamp included in the data of the first source is later than a time of receiving the second signal; and

means for generating a second data packet from data of 15 the second source.